



DIGGING, mowing, weeding, watering, pruning, paying the bills . . . of all the demands made by gardening on its practitioners, weeding—although there are times when it can afford a certain masochistic pleasure—is probably the one that *in the past* has done most to create a demand for flats.

Note the italics, because recent years have handed the gardener a sizeable arsenal of effective weapons to keep the green enemy at bay: and 1971 is carrying on the good work in great style.

As you know, paths and drives and other unplanted areas can be kept free of weeds for a whole season by watering with the simazine-based preparation called Weedex, provided the ground is clean at the outset.

INITIAL

Once that initial weed-free state has been achieved, follow-on treatments each year should obviate the need for any further weeding.

But to make life easier where weeds do exist, Weedex has now been complemented with a new double-action formulation, Super Weedex, to kill off these as well as putting down that growth barrier to prevent new weeds pushing through.

Another long-term weedkiller for paths and shrubberies, the granular Casoron-G, hitherto in limited supply, becomes nationally available this year.

Useful as they are, residual weedkillers have the limiting defects of their virtues.

So whoops of joy greeted the arrival on the scene of the non-residual herbicide Weedol (based on the chemical paraquat) which revolutionised weeding on culti-

THE NEW KISS OF DEATH FOR WEEDS

vated ground and became known as 'the chemical hoe.'

It kills all green growth, but is inactivated in soil, so that ground where weeds have been treated can be planted up without delay.

For 1971 there is a new formulation of this bestseller from ICI (nine million packs sold since 1965!) the related chemical diquat being added to the paraquat to give it extra zing in dealing with broad-leaved weeds.

Since paraquat cannot differentiate between the greenery of the wanted and the unwanted, Weedol must naturally be applied with care—ideally with a weeder-bar on a watering can, or with the special Tudor applicator.

BORDERS

And it deals, of course, only with existing weeds above ground and cannot prevent the emergence of others from seed already in the soil, though by eliminating a lot of hoeing and forking it reduces the chances of buried seed being brought to the upper 'germination zone' by soil disturbance.

However, a new pre-emergent weedkiller, which will help to plug the gap between the long-residual and the non-residual herbicides comes to us this season from Murphy's. It is called Ramrod.

What does this one do? Its primary use is to keep flower beds and borders

(annual or perennials) free of annual weeds for up to eight weeks from one application—with the proviso, again, that the ground is clean to begin with.

Of fine granular form, Ramrod is sprinkled on the soil from a puffer pack.

It can be applied immediately after sowing, when plants have three or four true leaves, after planting out, or at any other time on weed-free soil.

It won't, we are told, harm established plants on to which it may accidentally drift, nor will it adversely affect bulbs or other plants which may be dormant below ground on treated plots.

Here is an answer to weeds in rose-beds, which, because they are under-planted with other subjects, cannot be treated with a simazine-based weedkiller.

I look forward to trying this Murphy product for myself—knowing that it has been well-tryed by the company.

From paths and plots to lawns. A new selective herbicide getting nation-wide distribution this year, after a limited test-marketing in 1970, is ICI's 'Weedkiller for New Lawns.'

This has been proved harmless to the tenderest of young grasses though putting a stopper on broad-leaved weeds.

It can also be used on newly-laid turf which, like newly-sown grass, shouldn't be treated with the normal run of selectives until it has become established.

But the name of this newcomer doesn't really do it full justice. Sufferers from that blue-eyed menace, speedwell, and the little yellow peril, suckling clover, will be delighted to hear from ICI that 'WFNL' will also control these, and many other common weeds, on established lawns.

Talk about hiding your light under a bushel—or a label!

The New Kiss of Death for Weeds.

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